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ABSTRACT

This packet contains information and directions for those teachers or administrators coordinating and implementing the Gorgeous Mosaic Project at their elementary schools, middle schools, or high schools. This packet is to be used with the teacher's packet. The Gorgeous Mosaic is a project being carried out by the classroom art teachers of the world in which students individually draw portraits of the many different types of youngsters there are in their world on small cardboard tiles. The completed tiles are mounted on panels for exhibition. An opening section describes the three levels at which educators may be involved in the project: (1) through student participation; (2) by mounting an exhibition of the work produced at the area or school; and (3) in sending a sample of work from their area to be displayed as part of an international exhibit. Suggestions for how to organize and prepare for the project are offered with a description of the materials used. The next section gives detailed instructions on how to mount the individual tiles, suggestions of how to acknowledge student contribution, and guidelines for hanging and exhibiting the large panels of mounted tiles. A final note describes an upcoming "global" exhibit of panels of tiles planned for a site such as the United Nations in New York City and invites coordinators to send panels from their school to be included. The text is illustrated with four figures. (JB)

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THE GORGEOUS MOSAIC[SM] PROJECT

AN INTERNATIONAL ART PROJECT
Presented by The Children's Atelier

COORDINATOR'S PACKET

& MOUNTING DIRECTIONS

TO BE USED WITH THE TEACHER'S PACKET

ED347257

Mark Gura

SM

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The Gorgeous Mosaic℠
Project Coordinator's Packet
& MOUNTING DIRECTIONS

by Mark Gura

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Coordinator's Packet
& Mounting Directions

The Gorgeous Mosaic SM Project

Most educators will wish to participate in the Project in three ways. 1. Through student participation which involves both a lesson/discussion and the "hands on" experience of making art. 2. An exhibition which shows the entirety of the work produced in your area (some people may wish to display the work in each school site first as an extra step before doing this. 3. To send a representative sampling of the work from your area to be displayed as part of an international exhibit (2 complete panels-500 tiles).

You will need to distribute a copy of the Teacher's Packet as well as materials for doing the art work to the teachers with whom you are working. Essentially, the Project is structured so that each classroom teacher explains the idea of the Project to his/her students via a short lesson/discussion and then guides them in the creation of the portrait tiles. Once a large body of tiles has been produced the next step is to mount the tiles on to panels which hold several hundred tiles each. You may elect to instruct each teacher to do the mounting himself/herself or you may wish to assemble the entire quantity of tiles produced by the students in your area at a central location to be mounted at one time. I would recommend that you observe a sample of each of these tasks ahead of time to get an idea of what is involved directly and to get a sense of the difficulty level of each task. The final step is to assemble all of the finished panels into one large mosaic for exhibition as the completion activity.
As you can see, a truly modular approach has been taken with this Project and from start to finish it is a situation of smaller pieces combining to make larger and larger ones.

sample tile material

affix
6 ply posterboard
sample
here

We are using 2 inch square pieces (tiles) of polished, white cardboard called 6 ply poster board or railroad board. This material is widely available and inexpensive (about 70 cents U.S. for a 22 inch x 28 inch sheet that yields 150 2 inch tiles).

If this material is unavailable in your area please substitute anything similar (see sample). We recommend that the drawing be done on this material with pencil, ball point pen and water color **marker**. Again if this is unavailable please substitute anything similar. The finished tiles are to be mounted on a thick (1/4 inch) gray cardboard known as chipboard (U.S. price is about $3 per 30 inch x 40 inch sheet). These sheets hold well over 200 tiles. If this is unavailable in your locale, please substitute something similar (be sure that the size of the sheet you use is measured in multiples of 2 inches not exceeding the 30 inches x 40 inches size). **You may find it easier to produce panels that are intended to be shipped, on a lighter and smaller material than the chipboard.**

Mounting your work

To mount the tiles, guidlines should be ruled out on the sheet first to provide direction for gluing the great number of tiles that will be affixed to them. The guidlines should be ruled from top to bottom (orienting the sheet with the long side vertical) in 2 inch columns with a 1/4 inch space between the columns (see figure 1)

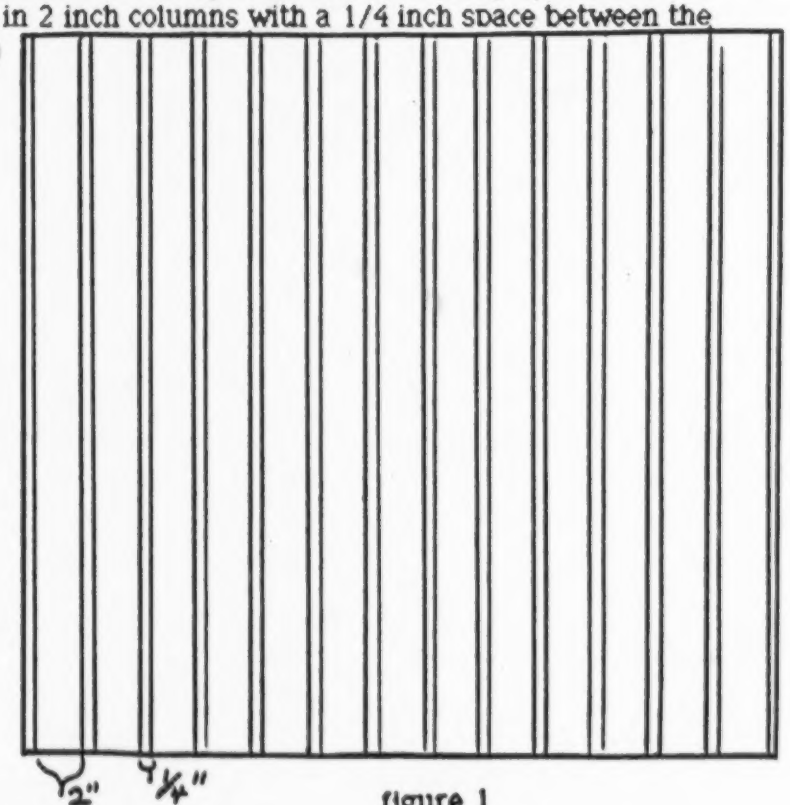

figure 1

Tiles are to be glued centered in the column leaving about 1/4 inch (or a fraction less) between them on the top and bottom to match the empty space on either side (figure 2).

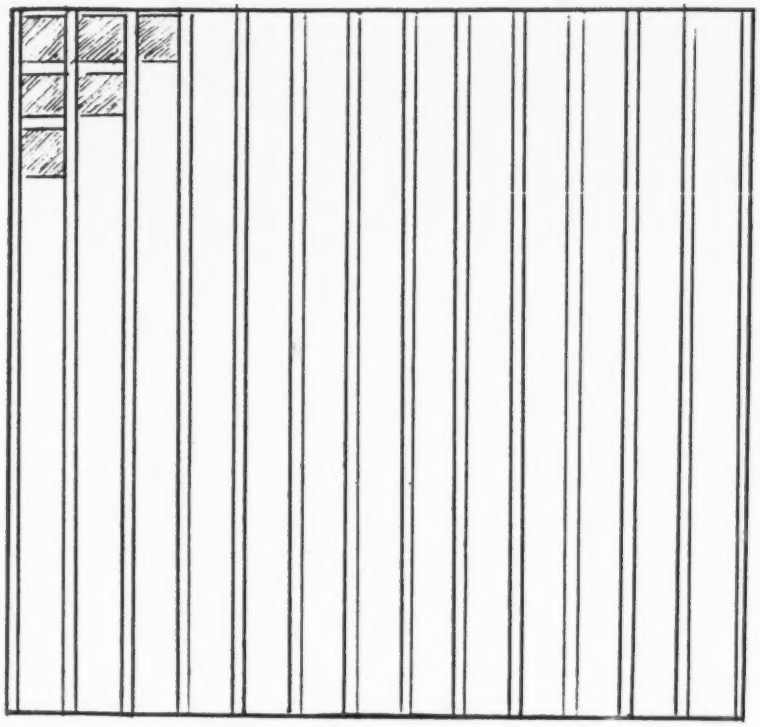

figure 2

If any partial spaces are left that can not accomodate full tiles, the large ones can be filled by selecting tiles that have a lot of unused space within them and cutting them down to fill the partial space. Smaller partial spaces can be filled by cutting slivers of the tile material and gluing them in place and then coloring them with markers (figure 3).

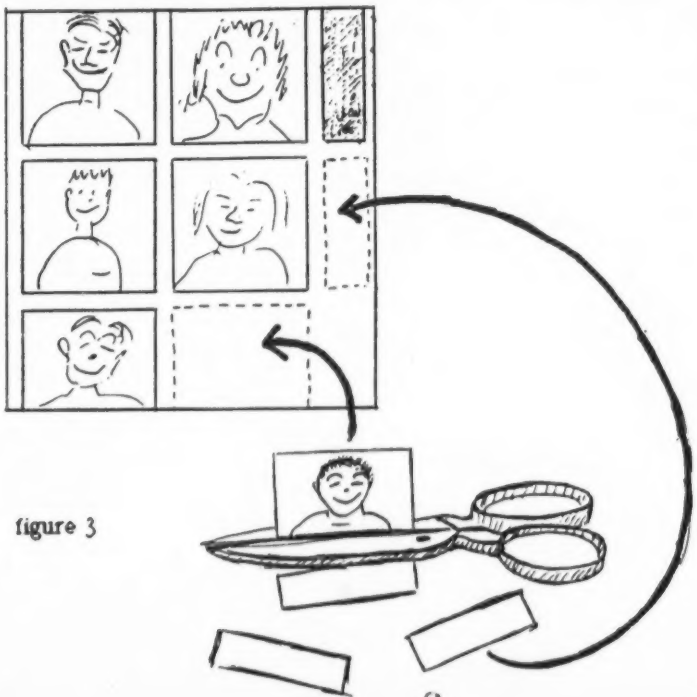

figure 3

The glue that is used should be a type (ie. Elmer's) that is both permanent and that does not wrinkle the tiles much. Particular care has to be taken to see to it that the corners and edges of the individual tiles do not curl up.

"Improving" panels. At your own discretion you may elect to select a few talented students and have them rework the finished panel somewhat. After all, there is no way that students who are working on a multitude of individual tiles can plan or account for the way the tiles will work together as a unified whole when glued down to one specific panel. By adding pen line and color from the markers after the panel is put together you will be able to unify and stregnthen the effect of the panel.

Acknowledgements

It is recommended that some form of acknowledgement such as a certificate of partipation, award, lapel button etc. be provided to the teachers to give to the students who contributed to the mosaic.

Exhibiting the work

The power of The Gorgeous Mosaic Project is best appreciated when the work of all the students is exhibited together forming one large work. In this way the poetic image of the beauty of "the one combining with the many to produce harmony" is easily illustrated . To accomplish this a large wall space will be needed. Just as the individual tile modules when placed together form a panel, the panels (as modules) when put together form a completed mosaic for exhibition. The panels when placed on the wall should be fitted next to each other forming a continuous band of work across the wall (see figure 4).

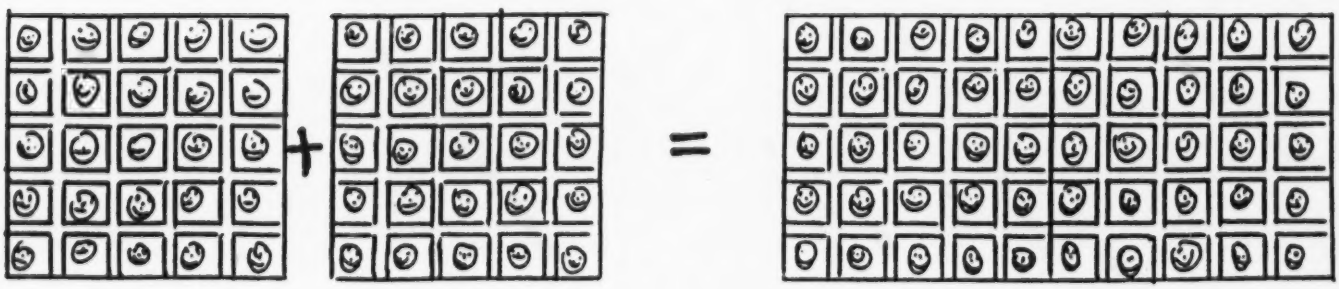

figure 4

It is useful to rule a continuous pencil line along the wall ahead of time to ensure that when the panels are hung against it they will be at uniform height from the floor. To create an exhibit that is effective it would be best to hang the panels in two or more ..tiers that touch to give the viewer a feeling of a dense field of tiles. The viewer is to be presented with two experiences in seeing the mosaic. Firstly, the effect of all the many thousands of tiles together and, secondly, the pleasure of selecting and examining individual tiles up close. Therefore do not hang any of the panels either too high or too low from the average viewers' eye level as it will then be impossible for him/her to examine the individual tiles.

Participating in the Global Mosaic Exhibit

We are planning to assemble a special "global" exhibit of
The Gorgeous Mosaic at a site such as the United Nations in New York City where the people of the world will be able to see this remarkable work of art. The exhibit will feature both a mosaic of tiles produced by schoolchildren from around the world, together with items that document the process of how the mosaic was created. We would like to include your school and students in this upcoming exhibit. Please forward to us two panels of tiles that represent the best work done for your mosaic and some materials that document your students at work and the exhition of your mosaic. Photos, video tapes, press clippings, and written descriptions would be useful. **You may find it easier to mount panels that are to be shipped for this exhibition, on a lighter and smaller material than the 30" x 40" chipboard sheets.**

Very truly yours,

Mark Gura
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